

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

In the Notice of Allowability dated March 28, 2006, the Examiner canceled claims 9-13 pursuant to an authorization given by the undersigned in a telephone interview with the Examiner on March 20, 2006. The Examiner indicated that the amendment was necessary because claims 9-13 were directed to a separate invention and, further, because claim 9 was indefinite due to its dependence on claim 1.

In an Amendment After Allowance dated April 25, 2006, applicants proposed to reintroduce claims 9-13 and amend claim 9 to specifically incorporate the structural limitations of claim 1. However, in a Response to Rule 312 Communication dated May 31, 2007, the Examiner disapproved this amendment because prosecution on the application had already been closed.

In a telephone interview with the Examiner dated June 7, 2007, the Examiner informed the undersigned that applicants could file a Request for Continued Examination in a further attempt to have claims 9-13 reintroduced into the application on the basis of the proposed amendment to claim 9. The undersigned also believes that the Examiner stated that if claim 9 was amended as proposed, the Examiner would not issue a restriction requirement for claims 9-13, although the undersigned will defer to the Examiner's recollection of this statement.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner permit claims 9-13 to be reintroduced into the application on the basis of amended claim 9 without issuing a new restriction requirement. By incorporating the structural limitations of claim 1 into claim 9, the method of claim 9 cannot be practiced without the apparatus of claim 1. In effect, this amendment makes claims 9-13 dependent on claim 1. Consequently, claims 9-13 should not be subject to a restriction requirement.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-13 are allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. C. Query, Jr.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Henry C. Query, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,650
(630) 260-8093

Date: June 11, 2007